

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 160

Sports Coaches/Criminal History Screening by Senator Ring

Requires the sanctioning authority of an independent youth athletic team to screen, through the designated websites of the Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the United States Department of Justice, any person who is a sports coach of such a team. Requires the sanctioning authority to disqualify any sports coach appearing on either registry. Requires each sanctioning authority to sign an affidavit annually, under penalty of perjury, stating that all sports coaches under its jurisdiction have been screened or are newly hired and awaiting the results of the required screening. Allows a sports coach to be placed on probationary status pending compliance with the screening requirement, unless otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

Creates a rebuttable presumption in any civil action brought against a sanctioning authority for harm negligently caused by a sports coach. Presumes that the independent youth athletic team was not negligent in hiring the sports coach if the sanctioning authority conducted the required screening. Creates a rebuttable presumption that the youth athletic team was negligent in hiring the sports coach if the sanctioning authority failed to comply with the requirements.

Provides legislative intent encouraging sanctioning authorities for youth athletic teams to participate in the Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System as authorized by the National Child Protection Act and state laws. (See bill for details)